

General

Title

Medication errors: does the hospital have a list, rules or guidelines on abbreviations, symbols and dose designations connected with medication errors?

Source(s)

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

Measure Domain

Primary Measure Domain

Structure

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

Secondary Measure Domain

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

Description

This measure is used to determine whether or not a hospital has a list, rules or guidelines on abbreviations, symbols and dose designations connected with medication errors.

Rationale

Experiential data show that using standardized abbreviations and symbols and standardized phraseology reduces medication errors.

Main aim of indicator: to enhance patient safety by controlling the abbreviations, symbols and dose designations used in prescriptions. The existence of a list of non-recommended abbreviations, symbols

and dose designations reflects the hospital's endeavors to control medication errors.

Primary Clinical Component

Medication errors due to abbreviations, symbols, dose designations; hospital guidelines

Denominator Description

This measure applies to hospitals (one hospital at a time).

Numerator Description

The hospital has a list, rules or guidelines on abbreviations, symbols and dose designations connected with medication errors.

Evidence Supporting the Measure

Evidence Supporting the Criterion of Quality

A formal consensus procedure involving experts in relevant clinical, methodological, and organizational sciences

A systematic review of the clinical literature

One or more research studies published in a National Library of Medicine (NLM) indexed, peer-reviewed journal

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

Need for the Measure

Overall insufficient capacity

Variation in capacity

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud España. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

State of Use of the Measure

State of Use

Current routine use

Current Use

Internal quality improvement

Application of Measure in its Current Use

Care Setting

Hospitals

Professionals Responsible for Health Care

Measure is not provider specific

Lowest Level of Health Care Delivery Addressed

Single Health Care Delivery Organizations

Target Population Age

Does not apply to this measure

Target Population Gender

Does not apply to this measure

Stratification by Vulnerable Populations

Does not apply to this measure

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

Incidence/Prevalence

25 percent of hospitals have a list, rules or guidelines on abbreviations, symbols and dose designations connected with medication errors.

Evidence for Incidence/Prevalence

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas practicas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medicion en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud España. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

Association with Vulnerable Populations

Unspecified

Burden of Illness

Unspecified

Utilization

Unspecified

Costs

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine (IOM) Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM Care Need

Not within an IOM Care Need

IOM Domain

Not within an IOM Domain

Data Collection for the Measure

Case Finding

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator Sampling Frame

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

This measure applies to hospitals (one hospital at a time).

Exclusions

None

Relationship of Denominator to Numerator

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator (Index) Event

Does not apply to this measure

Denominator Time Window

Does not apply to this measure

Numerator Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions

The hospital has a list, rules or guidelines on abbreviations, symbols and dose designations connected with medication errors.

Exclusions

None

Measure Results Under Control of Health Care Professionals, Organizations and/or Policymakers

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

Numerator Time Window

Encounter or point in time

Data Source

Provider data

Level of Determination of Quality

Does not apply to this measure

Pre-existing Instrument Used

None

Computation of the Measure

Scoring

Categorical Variable

Interpretation of Score

Passing score defines better quality

Allowance for Patient Factors

Does not apply to this measure

Standard of Comparison

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

Extent of Measure Testing

After pilot testing, the set of indicators has been measured in a random sample of 25 Spanish hospitals, stratified by hospital size. The main objective has been to field test the feasibility of measurement in the various settings representing real life situations in the context of the Spanish Health Care System.

Both the whole indicators validation report and the results of the baseline measurement in a sample of the Spanish National Health Service (NHS) hospitals may be accessed and downloaded from the Spanish Ministry of Health web page (in Spanish):

[Validation report](#)

[Results of baseline measurement in Spanish NHS hospitals](#)

Evidence for Reliability/Validity Testing

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p.

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medición en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud Español. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p.

Ministry of Health. Safe practices indicators project: background, summary of methods and measurement strategies. Madrid: Ministry of Health; 2009 Feb 20. 97 p.

Identifying Information

Original Title

Existence of a list of abbreviations, symbols and dose designations that may cause medication errors.

Measure Collection Name

Safe Practices Indicators Project

Measure Set Name

Facilitating Information Transfer and Clear Communication

Measure Subset Name

Use of Standardized Abbreviations and Dose Designations

Submitter

Spanish Agency for Healthcare Quality of the Spanish Ministry of Health - National Government Agency [Non-U.S.]

Developer

Grupo de Investigaci3n sobre Gesti3n de la Calidad en Servicios de Salud, University of Murcia, under contract to the Spanish Ministry of Health - National Government Agency [Non-U.S.]

Funding Source(s)

Agency for Quality, Spanish Ministry of Health

Composition of the Group that Developed the Measure

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Financial Disclosures/Other Potential Conflicts of Interest

Project entirely financed by the Spanish Ministry of Health.

Adaptation

Measure was not adapted from another source.

Release Date

2009 Feb

Measure Status

This is the current release of the measure.

Source(s)

Measure Availability

The individual measure, "Existence of a List of Abbreviations, Symbols and Dose Designations that May Cause Medication Errors," is published in "Safe Practices Indicators Project: Background, Summary of Methods and Measurement Strategies."

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Companion Documents

The following are available:

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Construcción y validación de indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 178 p. This document is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](#) (in Spanish).

Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo. Indicadores de buenas prácticas sobre seguridad del paciente. Resultados de su medición en una muestra de hospitales del sistema nacional de salud España 2001. Madrid: Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo; 2008. 95 p. This document is available in PDF from the [Ministry of Health and Social Policy Web site](#) (in Spanish).

NQMC Status

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